

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)
In View Of LaJoie

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by LaJoie et al. United States Patent No. 5,850,218 (hereinafter "LaJoie"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in independent claims 1 and 13, applicants' invention is directed towards an interactive television program guide that simultaneously displays (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings, that only contains program listings of program that are currently being broadcast, and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing. The user is allowed to position the highlight region only among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast. Whenever the highlight region is positioned on a new program listing, the detailed program description is automatically updated to correspond to the new program listing while the television program in the video window is unchanged.

This provides a simplified and streamlined program guide display by only displaying programs that are currently being broadcast. By not listing program information for future programs, the user is presented with a program list that is not cluttered (applicants' specification, page 14, lines 5-22).

LaJoie discloses a cable television system with an interactive program guide. The interactive program guide simultaneously displays (a) a program grid that contains programs and that has a program cursor for highlighting a given one of the programs, (b) a program viewing window, and (c) a highlighted program summary which includes a brief description (see column 23, line 44 to column 24, line 15 of LaJoie). The user is allowed to navigate the program cursor and the program summary contains information for the program highlighted by the program cursor.

The Examiner asserts that LaJoie displays a program grid that only contains program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast. This is not so. As shown in FIG. 16, LaJoie discloses a program grid that includes programs that are currently being broadcast and programs that will be broadcast in the future. The current time, as shown in FIG. 16, is 4:19 PM and the program grid includes future programs that begin at 4:30 PM and 5:00 PM, and partially displays program beginning at 5:30 PM.

Nowhere in LaJoie is it disclosed or suggested to display a program list that contains multiple program listings that only contains program listings of programs that are currently being broadcast as specified in claims 1 and 13. Moreover, LaJoie fails to disclose or suggest a highlight region that the user can position only among program listings for

programs that are currently being broadcast as specified in claims 1 and 13.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, applicants submit that claims 1 and 13 and dependent claims 2-12 and 14-24 are allowable over LaJoie, and request that the rejection based upon LaJoie be withdrawn.

III. New Claims 25-36

As set forth in independent claim 25, applicants' invention is directed towards an interactive television program guide system comprising user television equipment configured to simultaneously display (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings, that only contains program listings of program that are currently being broadcast, and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing. The user is allowed to position the highlight region only among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast. Whenever the highlight region is positioned on a new program listing, the detailed program description is automatically updated to correspond to the new program listing while the television program in the video window is unchanged.

LaJoie, as discussed above, fails to disclose or suggest (a) displaying a program list that contains multiple program listings that only contains program listings of programs that are currently being broadcast and (b) a highlight region that the user can position only among program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast as recited in claim 25.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, applicants submit that claim 25 and dependent claims 26-36 are allowable over LaJoie.

IV. New Claims 37-51

As set forth in independent claims 37, 42, and 47, applicants' invention is directed towards an interactive television program guide that simultaneously displays (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings, that only contains program listings of program that are currently being broadcast, and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing. The user is allowed to position the highlight region only among the program listing for programs that are currently being broadcast. Whenever the highlight region is positioned on a new program listing, the detailed program description and the

television program in the video window are automatically updated to correspond to the new program listing while the television program in the video window is unchanged.


None of the references of record, including LaJoie, disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 37, 42, and 47 and dependent claims 38-41, 43-46, and 48-51. More particularly, none of these references show or suggest (a) displaying a program list that contains multiple program listings that only contains program listings of programs that are currently being broadcast, (b) a highlight region that can only be positioned among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast, and (c) automatically updating a detailed program description and the television program in a video window to correspond to the highlighted program listing whenever the highlight region is positioned on a new program listing as defined in claims 37-51. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claims 37-51 are allowable.

V. Conclusion

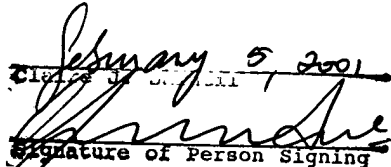
In view of the foregoing, claims 1-51 are in condition for allowance. This application is therefore in condition for

allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231 on


February 5, 2001
Signature of Person Signing

APPENDIX

(Showing How Claims 1 And 13-24 Have Been Amended)

1. (Amended) An interactive television program guide system implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

means for simultaneously displaying (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings, that only contains program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast, and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing;

means for allowing the user to position the highlight region only among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast; and

means for automatically updating the detailed program description to correspond to the highlighted program listing whenever the highlight region is positioned on a new program listing while leaving the television program in the video window unchanged.

13. (Amended) A method for using an interactive television program guide system implemented on user television equipment, comprising [the steps of]:

simultaneously displaying (a) a program list that contains multiple program listings, that only contains program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast, and that has a highlight region for highlighting a given one of the program listings, (b) a video window that contains an unobstructed view of a television program, and (c) a detailed program description of the highlighted program listing;

allowing the user to position the highlight region only among the program listings for programs that are currently being broadcast; and

automatically updating the detailed program description to correspond to the highlighted program listing whenever the highlight region is positioned on a new program listing while leaving the television program in the video window unchanged.

14. (Amended) The method defined in claim 13 further comprising [the step of] synchronizing the television program in the video window and the highlighted program listing.

15. (Amended) The method defined in claim 14 wherein [the step of] synchronizing the television program further comprises [the step of] providing the user with an opportunity to select the highlighted program listing.

16. (Amended) The method defined in claim 15 wherein [the step of] providing the user with an opportunity to select the highlighted program listing further comprises [the step of] allowing the user to select the highlighted program listing with a remote control select key.

17. (Amended) The method defined in claim 15 wherein [the step of] synchronizing the television program further comprises [the step of] providing the user with the opportunity to synchronize the television program in the video window and the highlighted program listing with remote control channel up and down keys.

18. (Amended) The method defined in claim 15 wherein [the step of] synchronizing the television program further comprises [the step of] allowing the user to change the channel for the television program that is displayed in the video window to an adjacent channel while simultaneously positioning the highlight region on top of the program listing for that channel in the program list.

19. (Amended) The method defined in claim 13 wherein [the step of] allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises [the step of] allowing the user to position the highlight region with remote control cursor keys.

20. (Amended) The method defined in claim 13 wherein [the step of] allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises [the step of] allowing the user to position the highlight region with remote control page up and down keys.

21. (Amended) The method defined in claim 13 wherein [the step of] allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises [the step of] allowing the user to position the highlight region with remote control numeric keys.

22. (Amended) The method defined in claim 13 further comprising [the step of] providing the user with an opportunity to display an information screen containing an additional description of the highlighted program listing.

23. (Amended) The method defined in claim 13 further comprising [the step of] providing the user with an opportunity to return to normal television viewing from the simultaneously displayed program list, video window, and detailed program description.

24. (Amended) The method defined in claim 13 wherein [the step of positioning] allowing the user to position the highlight region further comprises [the step of positioning] allowing the user to position the highlight region whenever the

user presses channel keys, the method further comprising [the steps of]:

changing the channel of the television program displayed in the video window to an adjacent channel whenever the user presses one of the channel keys; and

displaying the program list with the highlight region repositioned at the top of the list on top of a program listing for the adjacent channel whenever the program listing for the adjacent channel does not appear on the program list when the user presses one of the channel keys to change channels.